## AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

*Please replace paragraph number 38 starting on page 8 of the specification with the following corrected paragraph:*

Figure 5 describes the method of the present invention in its preferred embodiment. First, a step to designate a set of focus regions 560 is performed on the surface of the object under analysis. This designation step 560 is performed during a configuration or set-up phase of the inspection, the results of which are shown in Figure 7. The designation step 560 results in a set of focus regions 600 that can be used to measure the fine feature sharpness in a piecewise manner. Focus regions 600 should be defined such that the ~~po9rtion~~ portion of the surface of the object covered by each region 600 will be completely in focus for at least one focus setting, and such that each portion of the surface of the object for which accurate measurements must be made is covered by at least one region 600. Focus region 600 boundaries might be either sharp or fuzzy, and they can overlap each other. A focus region 600 with sharp boundaries might, for example, be represented as a binary region map image (whose pixels correspond with an image model of the object), where a pixel value of 1.0 indicates that the portion of the object corresponding to the pixel is within the region, and a pixel value of 0.0 indicates that the portion of the object corresponding to the pixel is outside the region. A focus region 600 with fuzzy boundaries might, for example, be represented as a gray scale region map image, where a pixel value of 1.0 indicates that the portion of the object corresponding to the pixel is within the region 600, a pixel value of 0.0 indicates that the portion of the object corresponding to the pixel is outside the region 600, and a pixel value between 0 and 1 indicates that the portion of the object corresponding to the pixel is partially within and partially outside of the region 600 (another way of interpreting this "fuzzy" inclusion is that the pixel value indicates the probability that the portion of the object corresponding to the pixel is within the region).